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It is hardly to be expected perhaps that the acknowledged chief of biblical expositors should find many preachers ambitious to dispute his primacy; but, in view of the effectiveness of this homiletic method, it is surprising that so few should seriously attempt to employ it. All the preachers whom we have been cursorily reviewing draw, it is true, more or less freely upon the Bible for doctrine and illustration. Mr. Lynch often makes felicitous application of a particular biblical incident or narrative. Dr. Burrell, in the *Verities of Jesus*, undertakes the exposition, in the interests of doctrinal teaching, of a particular group of the sayings of our Lord. Dr. Trumbull, Dr. Gladden, Mr. Morrison, and Mr. Campbell show sobriety, learning, insight, in their reverent and intelligent use of the Scriptures. The hearer or the reader is instructed by these preachers; but they do not habitually bring him directly into contact with the Bible itself.

It is commonly said that congregations, in America at least, "won't stand" very much expository preaching. But, in fact, it is seldom that the opportunity to refuse it is offered them. Let the preacher who wishes to reassure the Christian church, in the hour of its alarm lest criticism take away its Bible, decline, at least for a good while to come, to preach at all upon the doctrine of inspiration, or to defend the Word of God against criticism, and set himself to what should surely be the more congenial task of explaining and enforcing the religious content of Scripture. He will receive his reward. One who understands the Bible no longer needs to be convinced that in it and through it God is speaking to him.

A. K. P.

What is the Bible? By J. A. RUTH. Chicago: Open Court Publishing Co. Pp. 172. \$0.75.

The Bible in Modern Light. By J. W. CONLEY, D.D. Philadelphia: American Baptist Publication Society. Pp. 238.

The first of these two books has the value of showing the effect in regard to the questions of inspiration and revelation which some of the queries propounded by modern criticism produce upon a certain class of sincere minds. The "black beast" for Mr. Ruth is orthodoxy; if we were once clear of that, the path to the kingdom of God were easy. The basic fault with the book is the common error that God can be only where man is not—a view which fails to appreciate that the highest revelation of God must be through the willing and doing of men, else is he God only for the impersonal universe. The book has virility and incisiveness. Its objec-

tions are old, and its treatment of them reveals a lack of familiarity with modern theological thought.

Dr. Conley's book is a series of lectures given before the Bible Department of the Omaha Woman's Club. It is in many respects the opposite of Mr. Ruth's work, being an *apologia* for the commonly received views, not without an evident knowledge of critical opinions, which does not prevent their being disregarded. Six of the fourteen lectures are introductory to a study of the Bible; the others are occupied with expounding the relation of the Bible to various forms of human activity. The extensive field covered by the book precludes any detailed exposition in places where more of detail would be an improvement, and the brevity of treatment blurs the distinctions between ideas which may be closely related, but which are not identical, as is the case with the concepts denoted by the words "religion," "Christianity," and "the Bible." In a class where a competent leader could fill gaps and expand outlines, the book might serve as a suggestive textbook.

The stronger chapters of the book are the earlier ones. After one is told that the dominant biblical themes are "God, duty, judgment, mercy, brotherhood, death, future life, sin, salvation," it is disappointing to find that these dominant themes are set aside and the attention called to such matters as the ethics of the Bible, the Bible and woman, the educative value of Bible study, and so on. These are interesting and important topics, worthy of the suggestive treatment accorded them, but they are not the central ones. Probably serious differences of opinion in the mixed audience to which the lectures were delivered prevented any profitable treatment of the more vital themes. The topics treated would give opportunity for the introduction of these themes in the questions and discussions of a class.

HENRY M. BOWDEN.

SOUTH EGREMONT, MASS.

The Apostles of Our Lord. By J. G. GREENHOUGH. New York: A. C. Armstrong & Son. Pp. xii + 278.

The author gives such brief pictures of the Twelve as may be drawn in the light of the New Testament narrative; indicates the ways in which Jesus trained them, making competent and powerful spiritual teachers out of what is considered very unattractive and stubborn material; describes the later lives and work of the apostles after the ascension of our Lord, considering also the questions of apostolic succession, the position of Peter, the apostleship of Paul, and Barnabas the missionary. All discussion of